

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 10, 2017

## **SD National Guard activates new cyber protection team**

By Sgt. Austin Pearce – SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard held an activation ceremony for their newest unit in Rapid City, June 9.

The activation of Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174 is part of the National Guard Bureau's ongoing growth of cyber forces throughout the Department of Defense.

"Now there are four detachments in Cyber Protection Team 174 – one in South Dakota, one in North Dakota, two in Utah and our headquarters element is out of Colorado," said Staff Sgt. Brayden Nelson, intelligence analyst for Det. 2, CPT 174. "Realistically, we are a four-state (regional) cyber protection team."

Seven SDARNG members joined the 39-member team for CPT 174, which focuses on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats.

The team can be called up by the president or governor to assist local, state and federal agencies' in protecting domestic critical infrastructure and to provide support to law enforcement, homeland defense, and defense support of civil authority activities in support of national objectives.

"Our mission is to coordinate, train, advise and assist mission partners in an advisory-type role to steer them in the right direction in the event of a cyberattack," said Staff Sgt. Mike Reiprich, senior security analyst for Det. 2, CPT 174. "We would strictly be an extra set of eyes for our mission partners in that advisory role."

Cyber protection teams are trained to standards established by U.S. Cyber Command to conduct Defensive Cyberspace Operations on military networks.

"Our team is not offensive and we won't reach out and perform offensive cyberattacks to any intruder or potential attacker," said Nelson. "We're there for defending the network and fixing it if an intrusion happens. So, we are preventative and then reactive up until the network is secured."

Detachment 2, CPT 174 is one of 10 new cyber teams provided to the Army National Guard. The U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve cyber forces are projected to grow to 41 units in 34 states by 2019.

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**170609-Z-GT719-0004:** Members of Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174, South Dakota Army National Guard, stand in formation at their unit activation ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., June 9, 2017. Detachment 2, CPT 174 will focus on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)



**170609-Z-GT719-0032:** U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Warren Hofmann observes the unveiling of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174's guidon at the unit activation ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., June 9, 2017. Detachment 2, CPT 174 will focus on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)



**170609-Z-GT719-0045:** Members of Detachment 2, Cyber Protection Team 174, South Dakota Army National Guard, stand in formation at their unit activation ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., June 9, 2017. Detachment 2, CPT 174 will focus on protecting the nation's critical cyber infrastructure and addressing emerging cyber threats. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Trobee)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** please contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office at (605) 737-6721 or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil)